

Message Text

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21-12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 /119 W
----- 034323

R 220355Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6978

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JAPAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJ: JDA DEFENSE OBJECTIVES

SUMMARY: JDA DEFENSE BUREAU DIRGEN KUBO REPORTEDLY MADE UNPRECEDENTEDLY CLEAR STATEMENT OF JAPANESE DEFENSE OBJECTIVES IN DIET. ACCORDING JDA, KUBO STATEMENT WAS OFF-THE-CUFF AND PRESS REPORTING INACCURATE; KUBO TO CLARIFY REMARKS WITH EMBOFFS FOLLOWING END OF DIET SESSION SEPTEMBER 27. END SUMMARY.

1. MAINICHI AND SANKEI COVERED TESTIMONY BY JDA DEFENSE BUREAU DIRGEN TAKUYA KUBO DURING DELIBERATIONS ON TWO JDA BILLS BEFORE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 1973.

2. NEWS ACCOUNTS WERE SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY, BUT SEEMED TO

INDICATE KUBO MADE UNUSUALLY CLEAR STATEMENT OF GOJ DEFENSE OBJECTIVES. KUBO REPORTEDLY STATED JAPAN MUST HAVE CAPABILITY
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TO DEFEND HOME ISLANDS AGAINST INVASION FOR MINIMUM PERIOD

OF ONE TO SIX MONTHS UNTIL QUOTE FULL-SCALE DISPATCH OF (US)
REINFORCEMENTS. END QUOTE.

3. IN ADDITION KUBO REPORTEDLY STATED THAT WITH REGARD TO
SEA AND AIR DEFENSE, OUT OF HYOPHETICAL ATTACKING FORCE OF
700-800 ATTACKING PLANES JASDAF COULD PROBABLY ONLY SHOOT
DOWN 30 PERCENT, WHILE MSDF COULD BE COUNTED TO ONLY TO
OFFER PROTECTION FOR FROM ONE-SEVENTH TO ONE-SIXTH OF JAPAN'S
MARITIME COMMERCE IN WATERS NEAR JAPAN. SCOPE OF MARITIME
DEFENSE FOR JAPANESE SEA TRANSPORTATION ROUTES WAS THEREFORE
LIMITED TO 100 NAUTICAL MILES ON THE JAPAN SEA SIDE AND 200
NAUTICAL MILES ON THE PACIFIC SIDE. GOAL FOR DEFENSE OF
SPECIFIC VESSELS ALSO WOULD HAVE TO BE LIMITED TO 1,000
NAUTICAL MILES FROM JAPAN.

4. EMBOFF CONTACTED JDA COUNSELLOR FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS,
KEIICHI TACHIBANA, FOR CLARIFICATION OF ABOVE REMARKS.
ACCORDING TACHIBANA, KUBO'S REMARKS WERE MADE INFORMALLY AND
OFF-THE-CUFF. FURTHERMORE, THEY WERE INACCURATELY REPORTED
IN PRESS. (FOR EXAMPLE, NO MENTION WAS MADE OF SIX MONTHS
FIGURE). FOLLOWING END OF DIET SESSION KUBO WILL MEET WITH
EMBOFFS TO DISCUSS JDA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND CLARIFY HIS
STATEMENT. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ON RESULTS OF THAT MEETING.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY PLANS, LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO12288
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730916/aaaaalsi.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Nov-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <18-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JDA DEFENSE OBJECTIVES SUMMARY: JDA DEFENSE BUREAU DIRGEN KUBO REPORTEDLY MADE UN-
TAGS: MARR, JA, (KUBO, TAKUYA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005